

It has come to my attention that the NAB has petitioned (04-160) to block XM Radio from transmitting local weather and traffic information. If the National Association of Broadcasters find that their listener base is declining, it is entirely their own fault. For years they have provided ever declining quality of service, featuring less and less local content, extremely narrow music playlists, louder and more frequent commercials, miniscule and biased news content, and so on. They seem to have forgotten what quality radio is, and have driven many listeners away from radio entirely. Before XM came along, I listened only to C-Span and NPR. Nothing else on the air is even remotely tolerable.

The NAB ploy to try to bring their competitor down to their sorry level of service is not only disgusting and immoral, it reveals just how clueless they are. I assume the FCC is intelligent enough to deny the petition (though the recent ownership ruling does leave me with doubts about the quality of personnel at the FCC). Please however, also consider imposing sanctions against the NAB for this anti-competitive action. For example, you could improve the quality of American radio by:

- (1) Putting limits on the amount of commercial time. A limit if 59 minutes of commercials per hour would double the listenable content of the average radio station.
- (2) Banning right-wing kooks from the airwaves from 5 am to 10 pm.
- (3) Limiting ownership to one radio station per customer. This would start to inject some competition back into a very sick marketplace.